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RUEHRC/DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHDC

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SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

DEPT PASS AID AFR/SD FOR CURTIS, ATWOOD AND SCHLAGENHAUF  
DEPT PASS TO USTDA-PAUL MARIN, EXIM-JRICHTER  
DEPT PASS TO USTR-AGAMA  
JOHANNESBURG FOR NAGY  
USDOE FOR GEORGE PERSON  
TREASURY FOR PETERS, SOLOMON AND RITTERHOFF  
DOC FOR 3317/ITA/OA/BURRESS AND 3130/USFC/OIO/ANESA/REED

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [EPET](#) [EINV](#) [ENRG](#) [EAGR](#) [EAID](#) [ELTN](#) [NI](#)  
SUBJECT: NIGERIA: ACTION REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

REF:

- [1](#)A. ABUJA 1400
- [1](#)B. ABUJA 1328
- [1](#)C. ABUJA 1209
- [1](#)D. ABUJA 1109
- [1](#)E. ABUJA 1096
- [1](#)F. ABUJA 1050
- [1](#)G. ABUJA 549
- [1](#)H. ABUJA 262
- [1](#)I. LAGOS 155

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED; BUSINESS PROPRIETARY INFORMATION; NOT  
FOR DISSEMINATION OUTSIDE USG

[1](#)1. (SBU) This is an action request cable. Please see paragraphs 3  
and 4.

[1](#)2. (SBU) The Ambassador received a letter dated July 23 from Dr.  
Rilwanu Lukman, Minister of Petroleum Resources, as follow up to  
their meeting on June 8 and requesting USG technical assistance in  
reducing gas flaring through the application of new American  
gas-to-liquid (GTL) technology. She also received a letter from Dr.  
Bello Gusau, Secretary of the Oil and Gas Sector Reform  
Implementation Committee (OGIC), requesting U.S. technical  
assistance in setting up a policy and two regulatory bodies pursuant  
to the omnibus Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) under consideration by  
the National Assembly.

[1](#)3. (SBU) ACTION REQUEST: With regard to Lukman's request, Post  
requests the Office of Economic, Energy and Business Affairs/Energy  
Sanctions and Commodities (EEB/ESC) to coordinate an interagency  
dialogue with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID),  
U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE), U.S. Treasury, U.S. Export-Import  
Bank (EX-IM), U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA), Bureau of  
Oceans, International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, and  
other entities as appropriate to determine how the USG can support  
Nigeria's efforts to reduce gas flaring and create sustainable  
industrial clusters for electric power generation (reftel B and C).  
(Note: According to the World Bank, Nigeria is the second largest  
gas-flarer (byproduct of crude oil production) in the world after  
Russia, significantly contributing to global warming. The Nigerian  
National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) reports that annually 26% of  
gas produced in the country is burned into the atmosphere. In 2008,  
an estimated 666 million standard cubic feet of gas was flared. End  
Note).

¶4. (SBU) ACTION REQUEST CONTINUED: In response to Gusau's letter, Post requests that EEB/ESC coordinate a dialogue with the above and other appropriate agencies to determine how the USG can provide the GON technical assistance in setting up one policy and three independent regulatory bodies, separate from the new "for profit" National Petroleum Corporation to be established under the PIB. The GON also needs assistance in negotiating and setting up joint ventures with the various international oil companies (IOC) operating in Nigeria. Post requests U.S. technical assistance to Nigeria in this area as well.

¶5. (U) Post contact on this issue is Economic Officer Carolyn Jensen (jensencj@state.gov - 234-9-461-4371).

¶6. (U) This cable was coordinated with ConGen Lagos.

SANDERS